

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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MRS. L. L. POLE, Proprietor
CLARENCE H. POE, Editor
BENJAMIN IRBY, Corresponding
FRANK E. EMERY, Editors
J. W. DENMARK, Business Manager.

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"THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARALLEL TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY," is the motto of The Progressive Farmer, and upon this platform it shall rise or fall. Serving to master, ruled by no faction, circumscribed by no selfish or narrow policy, its aim will be to foster and promote the best interests of the whole people of the State. It will be true to the instincts, traditions and history of the Anglo-Saxon race. On all matters relating specially to the great interests it represents, it will speak with no uncertain voice, but will fearlessly the right defend and impartially the wrong condemn."—From Col. Polk's Salutatory, Feb. 10, 1888.

When sending your renewal, be sure to give exactly the name on label and postoffice to which the copy of paper you receive is sent.

We invite correspondence, news items, suggestions and criticisms on the subjects of agriculture, poultry raising, stock breeding, dairying, horticulture and gardening; woman's work, literature, or any subject of interest to our lady readers, young people, or the family generally; public matters, current events, political questions and principles, etc.—in short, any subject discussed in an all-round farm and family newspaper. Communications should be free from personalities and party abuse.

Address all business correspondence to and make money orders payable to "THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER, RALEIGH, N. C.," and not to any individual connected with the paper.

RENEWALS—The date opposite your name on your paper, or wrapper, shows to what time your subscription is paid. Thus 1 Jan. '00, shows that payment has been received up to Jan. 1, 1900; Jan. '01, to Jan. 1, 1901, and so on. Two weeks are required after money is received before date, which answers for a receipt, can be changed. If not properly changed within two weeks after money is sent notify us.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is the Official Organ of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance.

DISCONTINUANCES—Responsible subscribers will continue to receive this journal until the publishers are notified by letter to discontinue, when all arrears must be paid. If you do not wish the Journal continued for another year after your subscription has expired, you should then notify us to discontinue it.

Editorial.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

By a typographical error we are made to say in our article on page 1, "Peanut growing is an important industry in northwestern North Carolina." We wrote "northeastern."

Not even "cash in advance" can induce us to insert an ad. that we regard as unreliable. In one day last week we returned two cash payments sent us for such advertisements. When you patronize Progressive Farmer advertisers, rest assured that you are dealing with honorable men who fulfill their promises.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Toon assures us that some first-class agricultural works will be recommended to managers of public school libraries. Let our young men see that there is room for the best skill and talent on the farm, and a better day for agriculture will speedily dawn.

Work has not yet been begun on the State Fair Premium List, but an advance field crop premium list has been issued and is now being mailed to the farmers of the State. The Fair will be held October 21st to 26th, inclusive. Progressive Farmer readers desiring this list of premiums on field crops should write at once to Secretary J. E. Pogue, Raleigh, N. C.

Nowhere else in the world are the farmers so thoroughly organized as in France. The State Department at Washington has just received a lengthy but by no means dull report regarding these agricultural associations written by Consul John C. Covert, Lyons, France, a copy of which is now before us. There is in it much which American farmers should carefully study, and we purpose making some liberal extracts from it in early issues of The Progressive Farmer.

Croesus is far out of date. Some of our present-day magnates make more per year than that celebrated gentleman accumulated during his entire life time. Take these figures as given in one of our exchanges: "Within the period of one year and fifteen days the oil company has distributed among its stockholders the aggregate sum of \$88,000,000. John D. Rockefeller's share of this amounts to \$21,080,000. His income for the last year on these stock holdings has been rather more than \$55,000 daily, including Sundays and holidays, or nearly \$40 a minute."

THE EDITOR ASKS SOME QUESTIONS.

We like to have our farmer readers send us inquiries regarding subjects in which they stand in need of further information. In every case these inquiries are promptly answered, either privately or through The Progressive Farmer, by members of our staff or others with knowledge and experience as to the matter in hand. But an old proverb informs us that "turn about is fair play." So this week, the editor will ask his readers some questions. Here are a few that have occurred to us:

Are there any bad roads in your township?

Are there any homes in your neighborhood without the enlightening and elevating influence of a clean progressive farm and family newspaper?

Can anything be done to improve the public schools in your district?

Have the people of your section made any effort to secure rural free delivery of mails?

Has your public school yet established a library?

Is there a Sub-Alliance or a farmer's club of any kind in your school district?

If you find that you would have to answer "yes" to any of the above questions, let us remind you that there is work for you at home—work by which you can well serve your country and your fellowmen. While there is no political campaign this year, so that you will have no opportunity to express yourself upon State or National issues, why not start a township campaign, with a platform containing the planks suggested by the questions just asked? Is it not possible that you could accomplish just as much good as you have ever accomplished by attending party conventions and working for your party in campaign years? How much time did you give last year to party conventions, political speeches, and other party work? Why not devote at least that much of your time to the township campaign this year?

IN POLITICS.

The Progressive Farmer is not a partisan paper, nor is it a political paper. Our readers know that we have persistently labored to tear down party prejudice in members of all parties, and that we have urged the importance of greater independence in politics. But let no one suppose that we look with favor upon the idea of non-interference in politics upon the part of those who should bear the responsibilities of citizenship. As one of our exchanges well says:

"You often hear a man say 'I am not in politics,' and tacitly assuming by his manner, that he is a superior being to those who are. A man who is not 'in politics' is not a good citizen. Politics gives us our government, upon which depends our lives, liberty and property, and the welfare of our posterity. A man who is not 'in it' has no business living in this country."

This, we have said, is true. It is also true that to do his duty in politics it is not necessary for the citizen to believe that his particular party has a corner upon the intelligence and virtue of the country, or that he be disrespectful toward members of other parties, or that he become a perpetual candidate for office. Watch the procession; do your own thinking; keep your temper. Then "hew to the line and let the chips fall where they may."

THE GRANGE.

A very interesting article from our point of view is that contributed to the April Forum, by Mr. Kenyon L. Butterfield, formerly State Superintendent of Michigan Farmers' Institutes. He writes on the Grange, and to all interested in agricultural organizations his article will prove helpful. A great many Southern people think the Grange dead; in this they are much mistaken. From 1880 to 1890, it is true, the organization steadily declined in numbers and influence, but it has since made healthy and regular growth. As to its present strength and status, Mr. Butterfield says:

"During the last ten years there has been a widespread revival of interest in the organization, and the outlook is exceedingly promising. Since 1890 the membership has increased not less than seventy-five per cent. New York at present has 550 Subordinate Granges, with 43,000 members; Pennsylvania, 526 Granges and 20,000 members; Maine, 27 Granges and 29,000 members;

New Hampshire, 260 Granges and 24,000 members; Michigan, 420 Granges and nearly 25,000 members. These States lead, but the Order is also active and strong in Vermont, Connecticut, Ohio, Massachusetts. Thirty States pay dues to the National Grange Treasury, and twenty-four were represented by delegates at the last National Grange."

We believe that in the Alliance in the Carolinas this Grange history will repeat itself. For nearly ten years, the skies have been dark. If the old guard will now stand firm, we feel confident that steady, healthy growth is before us.

Farmers whose crops suffer from insect attacks should apply for Farmers Bulletin No. 127, "Important Insecticides: Directions for their Preparation and Use." This bulletin covers the subject quite thoroughly and may be had free of cost upon application to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

IN THIS NUMBER.

Among the agricultural features of this issue, the second of J. Edom Smith's series of articles on "The Small Farmer" occupies a prominent position, and a large number of our readers will undoubtedly find his suggestions helpful.

We are glad to have a report of the Cabarrus County Cotton Growers' meetings. We should like to have similar reports from all farmers' meetings in this and adjoining States.

Attention is directed to Mr. Franklin Sherman's offer to our readers. Mr. Sherman is making his department of great value to the farmers of the State and those who suffer from insect ravages should correspond with him. He will gladly answer inquiries either privately or through The Progressive Farmer.

We should like to hear from persons interested in forming a Peanut Growers' Association. We think Bro. Conner's suggestion a good one. The territory covered is small, and an organization should be easily affected.

Inquiries regarding soja beans, rape, etc., reach us occasionally. When you test a new crop, or anything new in agriculture, write up your experience for the benefit of Progressive Farmer readers. Artichokes, soja beans and rape, for instance, are discussed in this and the preceding number of this paper; we should like to hear from others who have grown these crops.

One of the best articles in this number is "Profit in Sheep." No farmer should fail to read it. Mr. Conway handles a large number of sheep and knows his subject thoroughly.

Mr. Bruner's remarks regarding apple growing may seem unseasonable, but it is none too soon to resolve upon a change in handling this crop, which should be a source of great profit to our people.

And now a word as to the contents of pages 4 and 5.

Don't pass over Secretary Wilson's article on "The Country Schoolhouse and its Grounds." If you haven't time to read it now, file it away. And when you have read it, hand it to your school committee-man. If by the publication of this article, we secure the adoption of Mr. Wilson's ideas in a half dozen country schools, we shall feel that we have accomplished great good. Don't think that his suggestions are meant only for the school in some other district; there is no good reason why they should not be put into actual practice on your own school grounds.

A Social Chat contributor asks for information regarding reading circles among farmers. We shall be glad to hear from others on the same subject, for it is an important one.

Page 5 is by no means dull. "What Followed," in the Christian Life Column; "Opportunities," in the children's department, and "Trojan on the 'Value of Good Literature,'" deserve a wide reading. What do you think of the latter's suggestion as to newspapers in the schools?

Among the articles on other pages, will be found the address of President Winston on the relations of the races, which has attracted widespread attention. The subject is a live one, nor is there anything dull in Dr. Winston's treatment of it.

Several reports of County Alliance meetings appear in this issue. We think the Franklin brethren have a first class plan of organization. We are glad, too, that the Jackson farmers will hold the fort. It is important that the Order keep a foothold in the mountains. We hope for reorganization in other mountain counties at no distant day.

RURAL FREE DELIVERY AGAIN.

A Washington dispatch sent out last week gives some statistics regarding the growth of rural free delivery, and comments upon the backwardness of the South in asking for the establishment of routes. We quote from the telegram as follows:

"Superintendent Machem, of the free delivery bureau of the Postoffice Department, has completed a compilation of the rural free delivery routes up to April 1, 1901. It is proposed to establish about 4,000 routes during the coming fiscal year, and Mr. Machem desired to know how many routes there were in operation in each State and how many applications were pending. Some States have taken kindly to the system, while others show a strange reluctance to engage in the enterprise.

"Part of this reluctance is no doubt due to the fact that the fourth-class postmasters who might be replaced by rural free delivery want to hold on to their places and are influencing their members of Congress against the installation of the service. The Central States east of the Ohio river and the Eastern States lead the others in the number of routes established and the number applied for. Illinois stands at the top, with 343 routes established, and has applications pending for the establishment of 628 more.

"Indiana is second, having 320 routes in operation, and it wants 341 additional. Ohio has 312 routes and 670 applications. New York has 229 routes and 260 applications.

"On the other hand, Kentucky has but 15 routes, and has so far asked for only 25 more. West Virginia is also low on the scale, with 35 established routes and 40 applications.

"Virginia and the Southern States in general are backward in approving rural free delivery, and, although the department has been willing to extend it through the South, the applications are very few. The carriers receive from \$200 to \$500 per annum, and, as Congress has increased the appropriation over \$1,000,000, the service can be greatly extended during the coming year."

These facts are worthy of attention. While Illinois has 343 routes, we have it from an authority that only eleven routes have been established in North Carolina, and South Carolina has only 39 routes.

Yet we Southern people pay taxes, just as the Hoosiers do, and we too have people who need better mail facilities. We have only ourselves to blame for the apparent discrimination against the South. The people of the North and West have forwarded petitions and asked for the establishment of routes; the people of the South have not asked for their share. Here lies the difference, and it is to our shame that it is true.

Superintendent Machem has also issued a circular of instructions to those desiring to secure rural free delivery, to which we invite attention, as it refers to one or two features not before mentioned in The Progressive Farmer. It directs that petitions for rural free delivery service be heads of families, who shall show the relative population along the route, character of the roads, principal vocations of the people and the distance each one now has to travel to receive mail. A map of the routes proposed is required. The petition must be indorsed by either a Senator or Representative in Congress. Each route must be over twenty miles long, serving at least 100 families, and those desiring the delivery hereafter must be prepared to put up suitable boxes. A copy of this circular will be mailed free upon application to "Postmaster-General, Washington, D. C."

We believe that rural free delivery will be of untold benefit to our Southern farmers, and we hope that in every section in which The Progressive Farmer is read some one will take up the matter and urge its importance. We pay taxes just as our Western brethren do; why should not we also have some of the benefits of this service?

Remember this is not a temporary measure, but routes once established remain in force, and the system will soon be so extended as to give rural delivery to all sections.

The Tennessee Experiment Station recently issued two bulletins, Nos. 4 of Vol. XIII and 1 of Vol. XIV. The first deals with "Feeding Native Steers" and the second with "Experiments with Corn, Forage Crops and Spring Cereals." They may be obtained by application direct to the Station at Knoxville, Tenn.

"IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH."

In the rural library law we have a good example of the value of organization—another illustration of the old adage, "In union there is strength." Last October in the Olivia Raney Library hall in this city, a number of ladies and gentlemen interested in the educational welfare of our State, and especially in bringing our people to realize the value of good literature, met and organized the North Carolina State Literary and Historical Association. The members decided that the State ought to have public school libraries, and when the Legislature met this subject was brought to the attention of its members. The idea had the endorsement of the Association; the members of the Association, therefore, felt a personal interest in the rural school library plan, and united effort placed it upon the statute-books. Without an organization to press it, ten years' further discussion would hardly have made it a success. Now the rural library law is perhaps the most popular act of the Legislature of 1901, and in it the State Literary and Historical Association has a noble and enduring monument to its first year's work.

EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

The Educational Conference, which met in Winston-Salem, N. C., last week was attended by a large number of prominent educators from all parts of the country, and accomplished much good. North Carolina was fortunate in securing this year's session of this noted conference, and the Twin City received her distinguished guests with real Tar Heel hospitality.

We regret that we were unable to attend Thursday's session of the Conference, and so missed the able addresses of Dr. J. L. M. Curry, Dr. Charles D. McIver, and others.

Friday's programme opened with an address on "Our Common Schools," by Dr. Chas. W. Dabney, of the University of Tennessee, and this was followed by addresses by Hon. G. R. Glenn, State School Commissioner of Georgia, and Gen. T. F. Toon, State Superintendent of Public Instruction for North Carolina.

Among the other speakers were President George T. Winston, who spoke on "Industrial Training;" Dr. Albert Shaw, the able editor of the "Review of Reviews;" Walter H. Page, one of "our own" who is making a great success of his new magazine, "The World's Work;" and Rev. Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst, the distinguished New York reformer.

No other meeting of so much importance to our educational interests has ever been held in North Carolina, and the good effects of this will doubtless be felt for years to come. The campaign which the Executive Committee will conduct in behalf of our public schools means much for the entire South.

We regret that press of space this week prevents a more extended notice of this great conference. In our next issue we hope to say more of its work.

AN INQUIRY ANSWERED.

A Pitt county correspondent asks: "How would it do to put bone and potash on oats after they have been sown and harrowed?"

To say what would be best for your oats would be rather difficult with the data before me. The bone meal would furnish phosphoric acid and potash, would be only two elements, and if might be that your land would need some nitrogen. Nitrate of soda, especially on light lands, is recommended. Of course the bone and potash would be of some benefit, but the question is whether the money could be best invested in that or in a complete fertilizer. If we knew something of the history of your land, as to previous crops, and the cultivation and character of the soil, we could answer more intelligently. Generally speaking, we would advise the use of a complete fertilizer on grain crops, with a good supply of nitrogen. So if you will put on a complete fertilizer now and run the harrow just after sowing, so as to knock it off of the blades, and work into the soil, you will probably get best results from that treatment. If the land was previously in peas an application of phosphate and potash would be the most economical fertilizer you could use.

B. I.

Rumor says that a movement is on foot looking to a consolidation of all the great packing interests of Chicago, Omaha and Kansas City.

WHAT IS THE STANDARD MILK QUANTITY IN NORTH CAROLINA?

There has been considerable diversity in the unit of measure and confusion prevails in regard to the United States. That a question should arise on the measure for milk is not surprising.

The United States Government has adopted a standard for weight and the avoirdupois pound based on the Troy grain of which 5,760 are required to make a Troy pound of ounces, while 7,000 of the same grain weigh a pound of 16 ounces avoirdupois. In dry measure the United States bushel of 2150.42 cubic inches is the recognized standard, but coarse articles must be heaped nearly all have a weight standard avoirdupois to be used instead of measuring. The standard measure unit is the gallon of the cubic inches except for beer and milk in many States.

These weights and measures kept at the county seats in North Carolina, and are in the hands of public officer—the Keeper of Standard Weights and Measures, or Standard Keeper. In nearly every State the standard of weight, or volume for a unit of staple products is defined and these differ one from another to quite an extent. The confusion should be as nearly ended as possible by a general law regulating the weight or volume of as many articles as can be found varying within limits narrow enough to permit one standard unit to prevail in all the States.

Most of the United States weights and measures have been adopted from England, except the destimeter and metric system which is a legal system here, and the only one and logical one. It ought to be common use among us now.

In England there were several kinds of gallons, among them the beer or beer gallon of 282 cubic inches. By some means, which may have been its association as a beverage drink, milk came to be retailed in this gallon, or quart, which is one fourth of a gallon, or 70.5 cubic inches. This is an old custom which generally prevailed, we believe, in the Northern States. The difference is that 12.75 cubic inches more milk was given than would be required for a quart of standard liquid measure. This is 22 per cent. calculation on the smaller measure.

A recent inquiry made to the Attorney-General of this State from Charlotte brings out the fact that the North Carolina adopted the United States standards (chap. 65, sec. 3,882, page 589 of Code) and the liquid gallon is therefore the legal measure of liquids in North Carolina, and the statute is silent as to any larger measure. Therefore we must consider 231 cubic inches a gallon of milk and 57.75 cubic inches one quart. This concludes with the fluid ounce measure of the apothecary. We find the quart measures being sold from stores in the city of Raleigh correspond to this volume within reasonable limits of error in manufacture.

If milk is sold by weight the average comes to very nearly 8.65 pounds per gallon. There is a variation depending on the richness of the milk in butter fat. The richest milk in fat weighs less for a given volume than does poor, half skimmed, or skimmed milk. If any considerable amounts of milk changes hands by weight, it should be stipulated that it contain a certain per cent. of butter fat and the price varied accordingly as this valuable constituent rises above or falls off from the standard set. Average milk contains about three and a half per cent.—average of 793 analyses 3.69 per cent.

The dailies of April 21st and 22nd report great damage to property, crops, and some loss of life by a storm and semi-blizzard which extended from Canada to Georgia, and raged Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, being most severe in the Ohio Valley, notably in Pennsylvania. Cold rain storms prevailed throughout North Carolina and adjoining States. Snow storms are reported from Tennessee, Virginia, Western North Carolina, and other Southern points.

There were probably eight thousand creameries, or butter factories, in operation in this country in 1900. These make approximately 30 per cent. of the butter of the country and control the prices in the great market centers. About two fifths or over three thousand are purely co-operative. The remainder are proprietary. Thus it is seen the greater part of the butter, about 70 per cent, is made on the farms.